

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01047 121553Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00
SP-02 L-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 EB-04 DODE-00 /044 W
-----121557Z 062492 /44

O R 121437Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2755
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
CINCLANT FOR POLAD

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 1047

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AC

SUBJ:NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONTINUED USE OF US MILITARY FACILITIES
IN ANTIGUA

1. ALTHOUGH FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH ANTIGUAN
LEADERS DID NOT RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT FOR OUR CONTINUED USE
OF THE US MILITARY FACILITIES IN ANTIGUA, IN LAST OF SEVERAL
PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH US NEGOTIATING TEAM LEADER HEAVNER,
ANTIGUA PREMIER BIRD AGREED TO INITIAL AN AGREEMENT IN
PRINCIPLE ON MAY 16. TEAM LEADER WILL RETURN TO ANTIGUA
FOR THAT PURPOSE (US TEAM NOW ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH
BARBADIAN AUTHORITIES IN BRIDGETOWN).

2. ORAL UNDERSTANDING WITH BIRD IS THAT US WILL PAY \$1.3
MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY FOR CONTINUED USE OF THE FACILI-
TIES ON SAME TERMS AS THE CURRENT AGREEMENT. THIS DOLLAR
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01047 121553Z

AMOUNT, MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED UNDER TEAM'S CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY,
WAS OFFERED ONLY TO BIRD IN PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
MEETING. HIGHEST OFFER IN FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS
WAS \$1 MILLION ANNUAL LEASE PAYMENTS, WHICH WAS NOT
ACCEPTED. (FORMAL SESSIONS REPORTED SEPTTEL).

3. BIRD PROBABLY FACES SOME STIFF RESISTANCE IN HIS

CABINET FROM THOSE WHO STILL HARBOR VERY INFLATED NOTIONS OF WHAT THE US MAY BE WILLING TO PAY FOR CONTINUED USE OF THE FACILITIES. TEAM DOES NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT BIRD'S ORAL AGREEMENT WITH TEAM LEADER WILL NOT HOLD.

4. TEAM HAS PREPARED DETAILED AGREEMENT PLUS SUBSIDIARY LEASES WHICH TEAM LEADER WILL ASK BIRD TO INITIAL MAY 16. TEAM LEADER WILL INITIAL AD REFERENDUM. BIRD'S INITIALED AGREEMENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO UK APPROVAL, BUT TEAM UNDERSTANDS UK APPROVAL WILL BE FORMALITY ONLY.

5. IN LAST PRIVATE SESSION BIRD TOLD TEAM LEADER HE IS VERY TIRED AND WANTS TO VISIT US "TO GET AWAY." IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE WAS HOLDING OUT ON AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO HAVE DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASON FOR US VISIT. TEAM LEADER SUGGESTED BIRD COULD COME TO US FOR FORMAL SIGNING OF AGREEMENT. IN MEANTIME, GOA COULD GET UK CONCURRENCE ON AGREEMENT, AND BIRD COULD THEN ENJOY RELAXED VISIT TO US. BIRD AGREED TO SIGN MAY 16 IN ANTIGUA. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE US IN JUNE OR JULY.

6. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, BELIEVE BIRD -- OR AT LEAST HIS ACCOMPANYING MINISTERS -- WILL WANT TO PRESS AGAIN FOR BILATERAL US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WERE REBUFFED REPEATEDLY DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, ON GROUNDS WE CANNOT OFFER SUCH ASSISTANCE AS COMPENSATION FOR MILITARY FACILITIES. TEAM BELIEVES BIRD UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS THIS POSITION, BUT GOA WILL STILL BE HOPING FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE THE
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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01047 121553Z

CONTEXT OF THE AGREEMENT ON OUR MILITARY FACILITIES.
SIMMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TREATY SIGNATURE, MILITARY BASE LEASES, NEGOTIATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770167-0904
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From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
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